



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 4, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending October 4, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **NO ACTIVITY** in terms of geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by our Sentinel Providers and Emergency Departments was low and comparable to the levels observed at the start of past seasons. Clinical laboratories reported a low proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza, but did see a mix of influenza A and influenza B. The DHMH lab reported one positive specimen. Three influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. There was one outbreak of pneumonia. Nationally, influenza activity is low.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

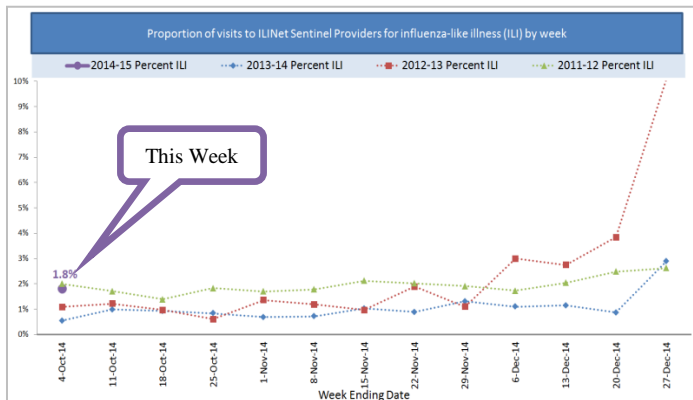
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

✓ No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

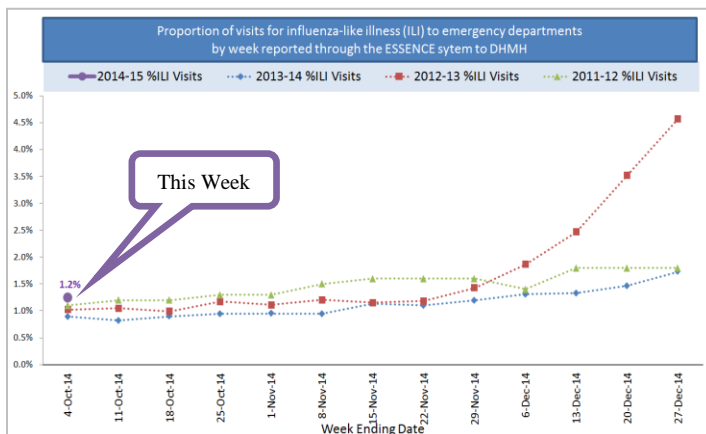
Eleven sentinel providers reported a total of 4,487 visits this week. Of those, 81 (1.8%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	15 (19%)	--	15 (19%)
Age 5-24	38 (47%)	--	38 (47%)
Age 25-49	17 (21%)	--	17 (21%)
Age 50-64	6 (7%)	--	6 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	5 (6%)	--	5 (6%)
Total ILI Visits	81 (100%)	--	81 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 48,022 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 596 (1.2%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	145 (24%)	--	145 (24%)
Age 5-24	223 (37%)	--	223 (37%)
Age 25-49	154 (26%)	--	154 (26%)
Age 50-64	49 (8%)	--	49 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	24 (4%)	--	24 (4%)
Unknown	1 (<1%)	--	1 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	596 (100%)	--	596 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

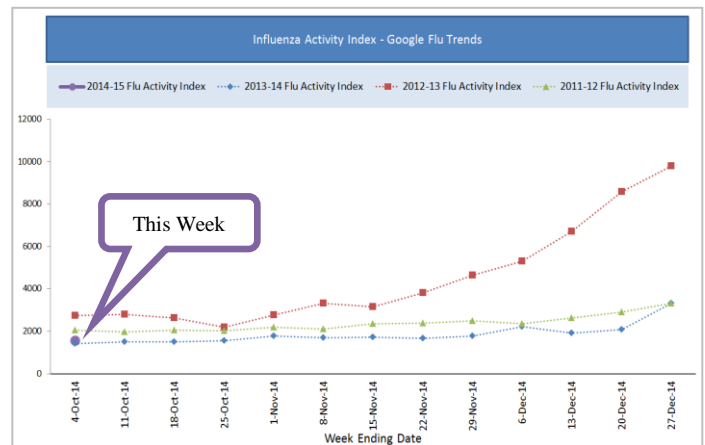
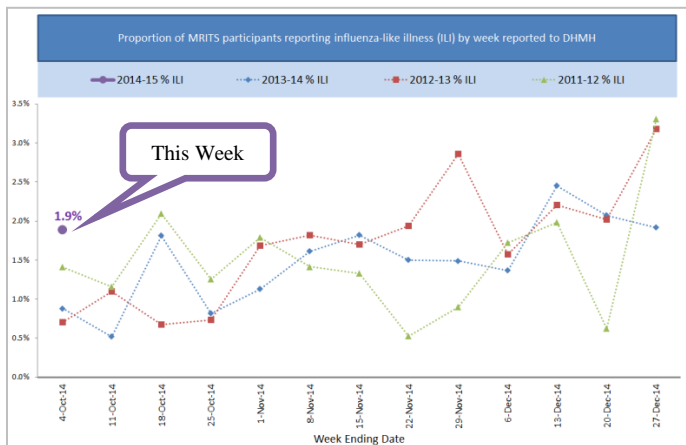
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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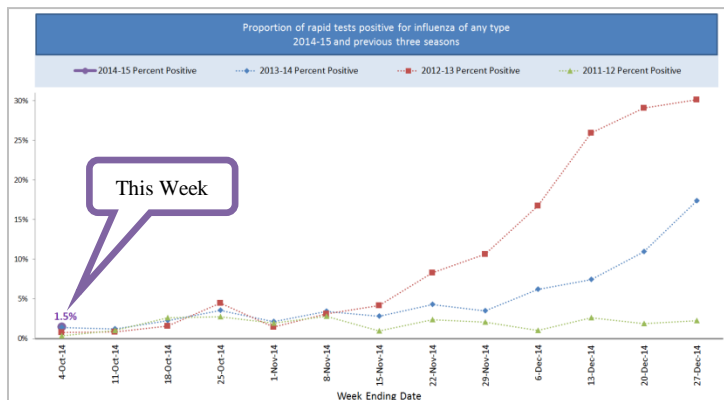
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 583 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 11 (1.9%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 20 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

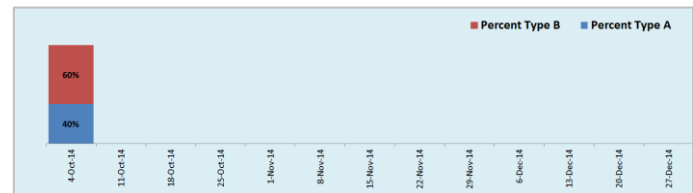


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-two clinical laboratories reported performing 324 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, five (1.5%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, two (40.0%) were influenza Type A and 3 (60.0%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

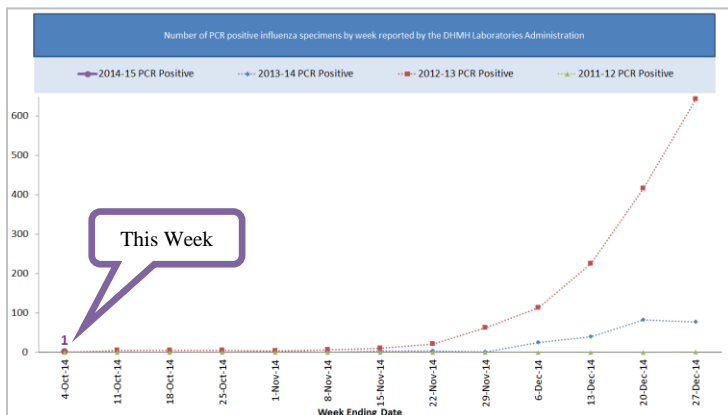


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	2 (40%)	--	2 (40%)
Type B	3 (60%)	--	3 (60%)
Total	5 (100%)	--	5 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 19 PCR tests for influenza and one (5.3%) specimen tested positive for influenza Type B. This specimen was tested during the week ending October 4, 2014 but had been collected the week prior (before the official start of the influenza season) and, therefore, did not qualify as the first confirmed case of the season. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--	--
Type A (H3)	--	--	--
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)
Total	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

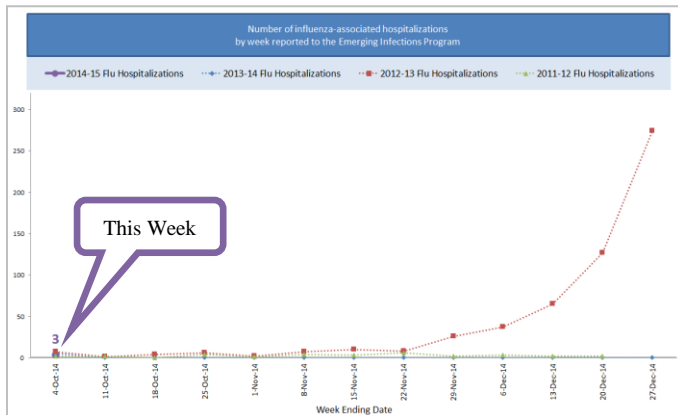
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2014-15 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

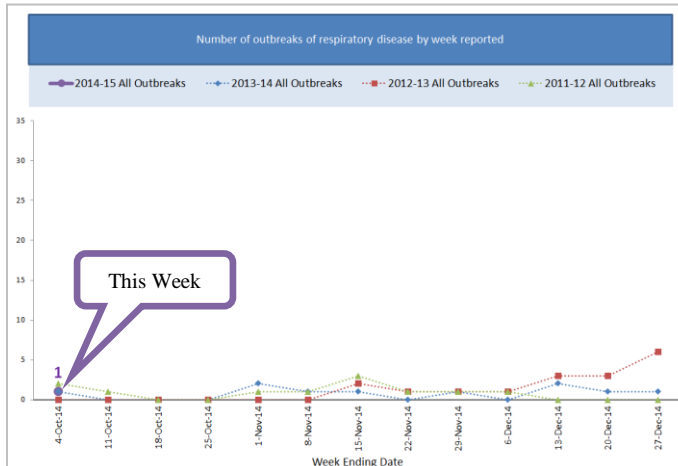
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported three influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (33%)	--	1 (33%)
Age 5-17	0 (0%)	--	0 (0%)
Age 18-24	0 (0%)	--	0 (0%)
Age 25-49	0 (0%)	--	0 (0%)
Age 50-64	0 (0%)	--	0 (0%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (67%)	--	2 (67%)
Total	3 (100%)	--	3 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There was one outbreak of pneumonia reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	--	1 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 40 (September 28-October 4, 2014), influenza activity was low in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 6,192 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 40, 199 (3.2%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.3%, which is below the national baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico experienced high ILI activity, all 50 states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Guam was reported as widespread; Puerto Rico reported regional activity; three states reported local activity; 28 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported sporadic activity; 18 states reported no influenza activity; and one state did not report.

